Sir Brian Robert Koga

Life Huh!?

WHEN LIFE HITS & YOU JUST WONDER

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INTRODUCTION

Let me not bother you with the definitions of what l think life is, or be philosophical, scientific, biological or spiritual. Life is for me simply a mixed bag, there is never one definition for what life is and you know what. The meaning of life really does boil down to the meaning of your life or my life which really reduces it to the meaning of you or me. Simply put, how you will define life is determined by what you have gone through up to this point, what you know, what you believe and basically who you are as a person. I am not sure why you bought this book but whatever reason it is, l hope by the end you will get what you are looking for. One of my constant prayers and hopes is that my life, what l do should be an answer to the questions in the hearts of man and women, boys and girls.

This book came about after a period of reflecting because no one else can define my life for me but me. I wanted to know what life is and l realized that life is how l define it myself. l began a study of self, because the great leaders of the past said an examined life is not a life worth lived. One of the things l had always wanted was to write and publish my book and the only thing stopping me was myself. It was just ten days before my 30th birthday and l was behind on my dreams and my goals and l had to take personal responsibility and initiative. It is not about not having the resources that you need but it is about being resourceful. The book that l could have taken my time to write l now had to do it in a very limited space of time but who was to blame. It is life hey, that what you are not willing to do in time, if it is meant to be done it will be done anyway but if done at the last minute you will pay the price. The same concept applies with a school or work assignment with a deadline, if you do not discipline yourself to do it in small instances you will be forced to do in over sleepless nights.

If you need to eat an elephant rather break it down into small eatable chunks and take a bit at a time but somehow that elephant has to be eaten. If you try to eat it all at once it may just kill you, so you have to stop procrastinating, putting off for tomorrow those things which can be done today. Our life is sort of your own assignment, to GOD or the Universe or to yourself of which you must accomplish whatever it is you set for yourself to accomplish and the great news, you can do it. You are reading this book because l managed to complete one of my assignment, my dream, my objective and my goal. Nothing stopping you from your own except you, we need to stop blaming everyone else except our self and take responsibility because at the end of the day. It Is not my life but yours to live, the serenity prayer which l love states, “LORD grant me the serenity to accept those things l cannot change and courage to change those things that l can”. Think about it, Life HuH!?

How it all began for me? I will not bore you with every tinny tiny detail of my life but l believe there are crucial moments that became the defining moments of my life of which they may help you define yours.

Wait but before that it seemed l may have skipped an important, the name of the book. I am sure you are curious to how we came up with the title, Life HuH!? So, when l decided to write this book originally l thought l would call it, “Memoirs of Sir Brian Robert Koga”. That was my blog page name, a memoir is a historical account or biography written from personal knowledge or special sources.

The reason why l decided not to name it Memoirs of Sir Brian Robert Koga is it really is not about me. Who cares about Brian Robert Koga, who is he and why should l bother about him. For so long l have been egoistic in trying to get the world to know my name when my name means nothing to the world but my life and the story means something to the world.

Egoistic is someone who is self-centred or conceited, its all about me and l do not care about anyone else and that has done so much harm in the world we live in. We live in a world where social media has made us so connected and yet so disconnected from ourselves or what we stand for as the human race. It is about the flashy life and the glory and many are running after the glory forgetting that behind the glory is a story to tell and to be told. I would rather get to the story of the rise to glory, so that l can apply the lessons from the story so l can attain the glory of my own.

So, l asked the love of my life to help me come up with a title for my book, l send her a voice note and she asked me, "What are you writing about?" and l told her in a voice note its basically about my life, l have failed so many times and yet risen so many times, I have made great mistakes and great successes, bad choices and good choices. l have had great moments, devastating moments, moments that made me cry with pain and sorry and moments that made me cry tears of joy. Moments that made me think life is over and moments that made me think life is just starting. In all that, there are so many profound truths and lessons that l learnt which l must share with the world, l owe it to the world to tell my story. Imagine for a moment, going up and down and zig zagging through life and yet loving every moment of it.

She responded with, "LIFE HUH??" and a big grinning smiling face, she knew the story of my life in and out and she was just amazed at how it all added up to this moment. I thought it was a suggestion for the book title but when l asked her how she came up with such a beautiful, thought capturing intriguing title she said it wasn't a suggestion, she had just had a moment to reflect on my life and could not really understand it all. I immediately knew that was going to be the title we were going to use. Life Huh!? Sometimes the very answers you are looking for come from unexpected sources and ways such that if you do not take time to think it through and process it, you may miss it.

She asked me if we could use it and l told, that is our title and we were going to run with it. Sometimes take what you have and run with it so fast that doubts, fears and all the other negatives will need to run faster to catch up with you and if they do catch up with you it is too late you have developed the strength and capacity to stand and fight. It is life but it is yours to live, make it or break it, mourn about it or complain about, find excuses or find your own reasons, be sad or be happy, celebrate life or whatever you will do but you are in it and thus be in it to the fullest. Life can be a blessing or a curse, you did choose it, neither did you ask for it or buy it or work for it but it was simply given to you. Life Huh!?

First Chapter of my life.

So how it all began for me, probably from the earliest years that l remembered or could make sense of this thing called life.

I was born in the beautiful capital city of Harare in Zimbabwe, a landlocked country in the continent of Africa in the year 1990. This is important as it is relevant to my story, you see we do not have a choice to say where l would like to be born. What country, what family, what continent or the circumstances surrounding our birth. That is a given but we have a choice to rise above it all. At one point and for a longtime l believed if l moved overseas my life would change but overseas has its own challenges. You can move anywhere in the world but if the real you has not changed then you will not make it. Its less of the location but more of the inspiration from within that determines where you will end up. Its not where you started off that really matters but where you want to end up and what you are willing to put up to get there. Sight allows you to see what is but you need vision to see what could be and you need faith and action to move what could be to what is. You can move to the most developed country in the world but if you have not developed yourself then you become irrelevant and thus you will not make it.

My father passed away when l was only five and l hardly know me at thirty l look at all the photographs of our family and there is no picture of my father holding me or anything. That is not to say he did not love on the contrary no; my father was a very hardworking man and was on the verge of really being something in his life before he passed. I grew up mainly staying with my grandmother, both my parents where a young couple that worked hard and had their dreams and goals. I put this in the book because it is of paramount importance, as we work towards what we want let us not forget what we have at hand.

Let us never neglect our children or our families, life for each of us is not guarantee and thus let us make every moment memorable. Somethings we should let go and other times we should hold on but it takes wisdom to know the difference. Many a life are full of regrets because people let go when they should hold on or hold on when they should let go. The issue is when you let go of what you see, you also might lose out on what you do not see that will come about because of what you see now. If you let go of what you see now, for example a toxic relationship then it means you will save yourself from further pain in the future. Life really is something isn't, that is what makes it life. That is why you should not just live anyhow but to take the time to create the life you want for you or your family. Its not my duty to tell you how but when you begin to think along those lines then the how will come. The old proverb says, "if the student is ready then the teacher will appear".

When my father passed away l never really understood what it meant, l recall running around with a smile, telling everyone my dad had died and was in a box (coffin). To me it was simply a game of hide and seek and somehow, he would just wake up and get out of the box so we play, life huh!? When it was time to take the body, l was not allowed to go to the graveyard to see where they would lay my father to rest because of cultural believes. That is when l really cried, l also wanted to go and one of my uncles bribed and gave money to go to the shops to buy my favorite snacks. Looking back l just wonder and simply say life hey. I will always have that memory, obviously when l understood that

my father was gone forever, it hit me hard but l had to say okay, what then does it mean now. It simply means that in mourning what l have lost l should not forget what l still have, my mother, my family at large and friends. The say yesterday is in the grave and tomorrow is in the womb but today is the present and that is all you have. Let's us make the most of it for soon the present will be past and the future will be present but if l do not work in the present to create the future l want then my future will not be enjoyable. At any point we should be able to sacrifice who are or what we have in order to be who we want to be in the future or have what we want to have.

Early childhood age.

I think l had the best childhood ever, l am the first born in a family of three. My young brother and baby sister (by the way she doesn't like it when l call her baby sister, she is not a baby anymore) know that l love them dearly. We attended the same schools mostly and we always watched for each other and had each other's back. That is the same story with my extended family, my aunties, uncles, cousins, nephews etc. You know how we are as Africans, we all about our families, remember what l said earlier we have no particular choice in regards to the family we are born in but that's the family we have let us embrace our familiarities, work through our differences and love what we have. There is a song that l love, it simply says love yours for that is yours to love. I cannot change my family but l can change how l feel about my family and the moment l change that my family changes. Sometimes we hurt each, sometimes we disappoint each other but forgiveness is the greatest gift we can ever give.

Now when you forgive it heals less the person who has been forgiven than the person who has done the forgiving. What do l mean by that, by forgiving you let go of a heavy burden that has been in your heart, we do not need to necessary burden ourselves with hurts of the past. Being hurt or rejected or disappointed by the ones we hold dearly is like someone taking a knife and cutting you open. It is obviously painful but it will probably not kill you but the infection from the cut will definitely kill you if undealt with. Its not enough to bandage the cut without properly handling it, you have to clean the wound apply the correct medicine and allow it to heal. It is not going to be instant but allow nature to take its course, they say time heals all wounds. So, you have been hurt and cut, l am sorry on behalf of that person but now l need you to forgive them because the hurt, pain, insecurities you have kept are now an infection and killing you. Yes, they hurt you but when you do not forgive and let go then the hurt they brought upon is far much less than the one you bring upon yourself. It really takes a big person to forgive and l always like being the bigger person, don't you too.

Life is not what happens but life is your response to what has happened. You actually have a choice to how you respond to what they have done to you. You have a decision to look at what has happened and how you will allow it to affect you. We are in this world responsible not for the actions of others but our own actions and reactions. What people do to you is their own business but what you do to what they have done to you is your business and so be careful. An old preacher said, "if anybody ever treats you bad and you know God has a your back then do not kill them, let them die because if you kill them it is homicide and you are a murderer but if they die then it is suicide. The blood should be not on your hands, sometimes forgive and let go. For what comes around goes around".

Life is less of what has happened but the continuous story we tell ourselves of what has happened. I learnt a while ago that when people reject me its less of my loss but theirs, it's crazy but when l am rejected l used to mourn for days, feel useless and worthless but not anymore. If l am rejected l tell myself, probably l am too much of a great person and they can't really handle me and l feel sorry not for me but for my rejectors because they just missed up on a great and wonderful package called me. When rejected sometimes l think, maybe l entered into someone's life when they were not

ready or l was not ready for the relationship and thus if it was meant to be it will. Sometimes l love you too much that l have to respect our differences and allow you to love someone else while l love someone else. Life Huh, imagine being so in love with some one so much but loving them enough to let them go or love them from a distance.

We need people but if they don't add value in your life its wise to let them go, not only for you but for them. If people are not going where you are going then wisdom dictates you let them go where they want to otherwise you keep pulling each other. Our paths will cross, we meet to part and part to meet. If our visions are two different things then we might end up in division. How really can two walk together unless they are in agreement, you are enough on your own till you meet those who are enough for you. I have talked in riddles but l am sure you get my gest, do what's good for you and you alone because at the end its your life. Sometimes we try so hard to impress people who will never be impressed by us, l am satisfied if l can impress myself. How can l give that which l do not have, love others as you love yourself! I love myself and thus I love all my family, friends, the strangers l meet and l love every human being because among all the existent and created beings and animals we are simply amazing. Kindly remember, "to choose every day to forgive yourself. You are human, flawed, and most of all worthy of love"

Growing up l can say life was a bit tough but looking at it now, it was not all bad simply because of an amazing person and persons in my life. With a single parent it is never easy but now that l am grown l completely understand what my mother had to go through and l am glad that even as a child l tried my very best to make it easy for her. When l knew l had no dad anymore l realized l had to take responsibility and be an example to my siblings and be there for our mother. I recall moments when we would save money to take her out for her birthday and we would have water to drink and she would have the meal and drink we could afford at that time. The funny thing is we always ended up sharing and we ended up eating more that the birthday girl, life Huh!? l feel like the great authors of the past who said, "everything that l am or ever hope to be l owe it to my mother". I did not get all l wanted but mum made sure l got everything that l really needed to have a bright future.

It is really what you choose to do with what you have that makes it all worthwhile. She would have tears in her heart because she knew we had done it with our whole hearts and everything we had and when it came to our birthday and holiday though we had little but little was sufficient enough for us. Amazing moments l recall, too many to mention in this little book. Make the most of what you have because when you do that what you actually have becomes more and goes a long way. Its really not about not having enough resources but it's about being resourceful with what you have. Sometimes all we have is our families and thus let us make the most of them.

Teenage and Early twenties

My early years are a bit haphazard and l cannot really recall a lot of huh moments simply because we moved or relocated a lot. We would move from place to place failing to raise rent and even school fees. We stayed in Highfields, Chitungwiza, Machipisa, Canaan Western, Kuwadzana 4, Kuwadzana Extension, Hatfield, Avondale and currently Mount Pleasant. The primary schools l attended were: Munga Primary, Highfield, Tynwald, Kuwadzana 4, Widdicombe, Kuwadzana 5 and Avondale. O Levels at Chinhoyi High and A Level at Speciss College in Harare. In there is a mixture of high density surburbs, low density and middle density, l went to A school/Private schools, village schools, government schools and at a point was even home schooled.

I am grateful for two things though, this moving taught me to quickly make new friends and connections wherever l go. It made me be open minded to all the different cultures, mindset, lifestyles and beliefs such that l am now able to adapt. While some are afraid of change, l love change for l see it as the next challenge. I always look forward to new things and l always brag that l can stay anywhere in the world because l learnt a while back that truly home is where the heart is. It is not only a beautiful world we live in but they are truly beautiful people. Obviously you get the rotten tomatoes but dark black oil that has spilled into the seas does not make all the sea ugly and bad. I always choose to see the goodness in people and thus everywhere l go l meet good people.

A workmate of mine shared a very profound narrative of how we can simply change our views to get what we want. We were discussing why others fail while others succeed and why are others live happy life's while some are miserable. We started off discussing the psychology of why people fail or don't succeed. He said, "It's because of the preconceived belief systems that we have. He gave an illustration of someone coming to your bedroom and painting the worst, hideous disgusting painting on your wall and afterwards leaving it there but putting a tin of white paint and paint brush on the floor. The question is will you leave the painting there, complaining or whining or you just get a tin of that white paint and paint over it. Henry said we can always repaint all the ugliness from our minds and paint whatever picture we want. We can choose to be positive and by being positive it makes a big difference".

All this moving around though as a child resulted in me being insecure, insecurity is one of the worst feelings ever. For even when others accept you if you do not except yourself you will be lonely in a room full of people. You tend to have the imposter syndrome, where you always feel like you do not belong and the more you try the more you become miserable. We were all born unique but most of us die as miserable copies. I choose to be me and l dare you to do the same, be not afraid to go against the flow. If the path everyone is on is not leading you to where you need to go then make your own path. Live a life that at the end of the day you will be proud of yourself.

The song writer, Jackson Brown sang, "Just do the steps you have been shown by everyone you have ever known until the dance becomes your own. We do the very steps and dances we been shown by everyone else and the dance has become our very own yet it brings about the very same results we no longer want. We are a sum total or average of the people we hang around. By beholding we become changed, look at the circle around you, if you hang around losers you will end up a loser. In the song he says, into a dancer you have grown from the seed someone else planted. Go on and

plant some seeds of your own between the time you arrive and the time you have to go home because in the end there is one dance of us all and that dance you will do alone. We need to break the chains and shift from manifesting what we don't want and to what we want. If you keep your attention on what you don't want, what you don't want will always keep coming. Addiction is simply never getting enough of what you don't want. A fool is one who thinks the same thoughts and does the same thing expecting a different result. The currency of attracting what we want is our thoughts.

The other thing that became an issue because of always moving around is l never got to time to develop long lasting relationships and thus for a very long time l had issues with commitment. If anything is needed to thrive in this world it is needs commitment. Commitment takes discipline to develop and it is one the most important virtues in this world and l advise you to begin to be more committed. I had to learn to be committed and it began by being committed to me. If l cannot keep my word to myself how can l keep anyone else word. If l cannot be in a long term relationship with me how can l be in a relationship with anyone else? If l cannot care and love me, how do l expect to care and love the other? Self-love is never selfishness, in an airplane they tell if the plane is descending towards doom put on your oxygen mask first and then help the one in the next sit to you. How can l be helpful to the world when l cannot help myself?

I had a lot of things to say pertaining to life but l could not put it all in one but truly l hope you are not only intrigued enjoying but you are finding the inspiration you need to transform your life. You must inspire to transform before you retire, as in our days on this are numbers so let us make the most of them while we still can. Time truly waits for no one and looking back to the few years l have existed on this earth it feels like it is just a minute but so much has transpired.

My High schools was more stable but university was a different story, O Levels was at Chinhoyi High and A Level at Speciss College in Harare. I came to Solusi University and in my second year failed to raise the fees. So l quit, giving up is the easiest action you can take but it's the one you will most regret. I went and worked in South Africa and spent three years without even seeing my family or coming home. I worked as a cashier, barman, grape harvest person at a wine farm, pizza delivery boy, call center agent, secretary, retail cashier, fuel attendant, assistant manager at an Italian restaurant and junior accounting clerk. l came back to Zimbabwe and got an internship at ZESA and then returned back to Solusi University.

To finish my degree l am eternally grateful to Mr W. Mpariwa, my wonderful Uncle and so many people who helped me along the way who sponsored and assisted me in my final years to be able to complete my degree. He paid for everything including the food l ate and never asked for anything in return. There is truly no greater love than that and it is only a few people who are able to do that. It has taken me nine years to finish a four year degree but looking back l can smile because it was worth it. Those nine years were among the best years of my life.

It is so easy to give up but the regret of not having tried again is far much worse. It is not always about arriving at the destination but it is the journey that really counts. It is less about what we will be in the future but it is about what we are becoming in the process towards our future. I am glad l went through everything l had to go through because it made me resilient, it made me adaptable, it made me be able to always be hopeful for a better tomorrow. What is, is not what will be. What will be can simply be changed by changing how we view and use what is now. The journey was long and winding but looking back l enjoyed every moment of it. I met amazing people and have so many

amazing stories to tell. If the earth was a paper and all the ocean was ink and all the trees ball point pens, still they would not be space enough for me to say how grateful l am. I firmly believe that through it all God in His marvelous mercies gave me strength to urge on. You need to have faith in something, my faith is in GOD and He has never ever let me down. I have let him down so many times yet he still loves me. As long as your feet is not under the ground buried but on top then believe me there is still hope you. Truly it is not yet over until it's over. Life Huh!?

With this book l did not want to get to philosophical, religious or scientific but l wanted to share my story as l felt it should be told. I wanted to tell in such a way that whoever got hold of this book would be uplifted and transformed. The next chapters are a collection of articles l wrote in a period of five years. I tried to keep them short as best as l could yet packed with so many lessons that whoever read this and took to heart would find transformation. Why read a book called Life Huh!? When you don't intend to find clarity for the life you now live. Now, one of the most important virtues to have, is the discipline of following through, why start something if you do not intend on finishing it. I dare you to finish and see if you will not find the answers to some of the questions that you now seek.

ANOTHER CHAPTER AND PERIOD

So you now understand where l am coming from and l am sure that you understand that where l am going, the future is bright and the sky is the limit. The same can be said of your life, a famous write once, said that, “we have no reason to fear the future accept if we forget how the LORD has led us this far” The purpose of these book is not only to show you, my audience my glorious moments or the gutters l had to crawl in for me to arrive to where l am today. But the main objectives is that l not only reflect on the lessons learnt but that you may pick one or two lessons, such that you refrain yourself from taking the same treacherous path l took. After having left school, l got my first job in South Africa Johannesburg as a till packer. I worked one of the major Hypermarket, my duties where basic. Stand by the till and pack customer groceries accordingly. Meaning cold beverages or food stuff in a carrier bag of their own, hot stuff in their own, detergents in their own, breakable items in their own. Here was a 2nd year finance student doing what a grade one could do or even worse off, someone who had not seen a classroom before could do with their eyes closed. I was happy to be working then but now l realize how low one can get.

The lesson l can think of as l reminiscence about the till packer days, is that if you fail to plan your life and future, you will settle for anything. Never forget who you are, where you have been and where you are going, for the moment you do that you become a settler and life will give crumbs from the masters table. Only dogs settle and are content with whatever their masters throw under the table. But l honestly believe GOD created us for greater things, l know that you and l, are fearful and wonderfully made.

Proverbs 29 verse 18 says, “Where there is no vision people perish”. Where was l going, working as a till packer, earning a meagre 12 rand per hour, which is basically a $1, 20 cents. I soon got frustrated, bored, life became dull, difficult and hard, to quote the exact emotions and feelings in my head at that time. The question is why, was l not working and was l not earning an income?

Three brick layers working on the same scene where asked, “What thou art doing?” The first replied, “cant thou art see, l lay bricks”, the second replied, “l build a wall” and the third brick layer replied, “I BUILD A BUILDING THAT IS TO BE THE TEMPLE AND FOR THE GLORY OF GOD”. This brick layers where working on the same project but with different views. I was frustrated because l was like the first and second brick layer.

I had no goal, no objective, no mission and NO VISION. If one has no vision, your time will flow in all directions, your resources in all directions and you will be blown about like a leaf in the wind. Soon you will wither and perish. A people without a vision will soon perish. I was simply stuck in a cycle but that could not allow me to break away from the cycle of poverty. Yes I had a JOB, which simply means Just Over Broke, l got enough income to keep me coming to work but not to take me anywhere. Without a vision what is money, what is a degree, what is GPA?

Without a vision of what the end will be, work and study is just but an activity. Activity that produces nothing worthwhile at the end. VISION is what makes your activity meaningful. Whatever you go through in life, there is light at the end of the tunnel. Have a vision, all of us are self-made but its only millionaires who accept this fact. All great achievers in this life have had a vision. History is

being read but it is also being made by people with Vision and imagination. Nothing in this world can stop a made up mind, where there is a will, there is a way. What will drive you, push you to keep going when you want to give up. Where do you see yourself in the few days, months and years to come? WHAT IS YOUR VISION?

To close off this chapter of Sir Brian Memoirs, l quote the great speaker Les Brown:

"If you want a something bad enough to go and fight for it.

To work day and night for it.

To give up your time, your peace and sleep for it.

If all that you dream and scheme is about it.

And life seems useless and worthless without it.

And if you gladly sweat for it and fret for it.

And you plan for it and you lose all your terror for the opposition for it.

And you simply go out, to that thing that you want.

With all your capacity, strength and stern for tenacity.

If neither cold, poverty, famine or gulf, sickness or pain or rain

Can't keep your away from the something that you want.

If target and grim, you are besieged and besotted

WITH THE HELP OF GOD YOU WILL GET IT

Yes it is possible, your dream is possible

INDULGE ME

We are bombarded with advertisement to consume more, to try out new goods and services. Keep up with current trends, fashion, new car, the latest I Phone, Galaxy phone, laptop, tablet, latest movies or episodes of series and sometimes even the hottest new guy or girl in the neighborhood etc. Turn on your television, get on the internet and all you see and all you see are the advertisement. How do we break the cycle of poverty, when all we know is how to spend and not save or invest for the future? When our salary arrive or monthly pocket money or allowances they are well spend and or when they come they are never enough to take us through to the next pay slip. At the end of the day we question ourselves, where did the money go? It's a question, l have so many times asked myself, have you, food for thought".

So having received a lump sum of spendable or savable or investable income, what will you do?. At the end of the day which one wins? So in short that lump sum you receive quickly disappears without any investment worthwhile for the future. We spent our resources reckless but look elsewhere to put the blame. Mine was a self-imposed poverty, l had to take responsibility, take responsibility and take charge of your life. Every one of us is self- made but its only millionaires who align themselves to this thought. We choose daily, by being lazy, reckless living, putting things for tomorrow that can be done today, by spending on what is unnecessary and not investing in the future.

Henry Ford had this to say, "Many estates are brought to ruin by spending and getting. Women for tea forsook spinning and knitting. Men for beer and punch forsook hewing and splitting". After l had received the money, remember l was not working anymore. Anyways, why bother l had a pretty fat bank account but again the always taking out of the meal storeroom and never putting in soon will result in an empty storeroom or wallet. And when the well is dry, then you will know the worth of the water. My well soon became dry. It is very hard for an empty bag to stand upright, but how did l spend the money?

I went out with lots of friends, we would go for parties clubs and live shows. But when l soon became broke, my friends disappeared as the money in the bank account disappeared as well. Away then with your expensive follies and you will not then have so much cause to complain of hard times. Women and wine, game and deceit, make the wealth small and the want to consume greater. What maintains our egos, addictions and vices would soon add value to our lives. One may think a little beer, a little punch now, a little dark chocolate now or ice cream and a little entertainment now and then can be of no great consequence. But remember, "Many a little makes a mickle" Beware of little expenses, a small leak will sink a great ship".

I spend much on dressing and the latest gadgets, keeping up with fashion trends. Pride is the downfall of many pockets, wallets and bank accounts. Fond pride of dress is sure a very curse, whatever you fancy, consult your purse. Pride is as loud a beggar as want and a great deal more destructive. When you have brought one fine thing, which is in fashion currently and of high value, then you must buy ten more that your appearance may all be of one piece. It is easier to suppress the first desire than to satisfy all that follows the first spending.

Pleasure is the rock which most young people split upon. I launched out with crowded sails in the quest of it. Seeking where ever l was told l could make the most money and could find the best

entertainment and pleasures of this world but l soon realized that it would be me, who would soon be not just out of money or wealthy, time, a future, or even physical healthy, it is still the same sung everywhere we go. Young people launch out, with a full ship, our own ships, the titanic but without a compass to direct the course or reason sufficient to steer the vessel, it soon hits an ice berg and sinks or if lucky to get back on land, pain, heartbreaks, regrets and shame instead of pleasure are the returns of their voyage.

So after the carefree and careless wonderings, the prodigal son returned back to his senses. It is great that we sometimes get second chances, let us make the most of them. Grab the opportunity in the lifetime of the opportunity. As l look back l now realize that as much as there is pleasure today, remember that there is a future yet to be lived. Today spend a little and save more, invest more and tomorrow you will have much to spend. Today spend much, save little and invest nothing and tomorrow you will have nothing to spend.

Jim Rohn tilted Life as the Big IF. It is possible to be successful IF only l work hard, it is possible for me to pass all my modules IF only l work hard. It is possible for me to win a beautiful ladies heart, IF only l was more handsome, more charming, IF only l had more money or a fancy car. The list of IF's is endless. You can spend your whole life time day dreaming of Ifs, IF only l had more money, if only l was born in a different family, maybe rich family. IF only, but the mentality of IF only, does not move you from where you are, to where you ought to be or to where you want to be. It only gives you excuses. You know the story, you been there, done that. Imagine yourself if you were in the shoes of someone worse of or better off. IF you were in my shoes what would you do?

It is true that, "if one takes all the money, wealthy in the universe and shares it equally amongst the human race, sooner than you think it will be back in the same hands" As a man think, so is he. As he begins to think, so he becomes. If a 1000 dollar mindset is given a million, he will easily spend it or squander it to get to his usual 1000 dollars. But if a million dollar mindset he will invest and quickly transform it to a million. Let us really work on our mindset. A little in the right hands will go a long way than much in the wrong hands, history has proven this fact. Nothing in this world can stop a made up mind, where there is a will, there is a way. What will drive you, push you to keep going when you want to give up. Where do you see yourself in the few days, months and years to come?

A Chinese bamboo tree, takes five years to grow. You have to water it, tend it and fertilize it every day but it starts to show or sprout from the ground only in the fifth year. But in the fifth year, it grows five feet tall in five weeks. Keep to your studies, to your career, to your talent, keep watering and working on your dream. One should be able to sacrifice what we are for what we will become. To be able at any moment to sacrifice what we are for what we must become. To be able to sacrifice what we can consume today in order to acquire what others who have consumed today won't have tomorrow. Have a vision, do not give up on your dream, focus do not be swayed by little pleasures or friends that give you advice to enjoy today at the sacrifice of tomorrow and be able to sacrifice what we are for what we will become. To be able at any moment to sacrifice what we consume today in order to consume tomorrow what others won't have. All great achievers in this life have had a vision, a dream and have had to make great sacrifice. What sacrifice will you make today in order to enjoy better tomorrow, its life and you have to make the best of today to have a better tomorrow.

ADAPT AND BE RELEVANT

The story of my life is filled with joyous moments, painful ones, sad moments, happy moments, in summary it is a mixed bag but with so many lessons learnt and continually acquired on a daily basis. It is a like an abstract artist painting, before the final piece is finished it does not make any sense whatsoever or as one climbs a high mountain, the upward is painful and harsh and one may even ask themselves, why even bother trying but the view from the top is magnificently breathe taking, one tends to forget the toils of getting there. The bible puts it as the joy of holding a new born baby, hearing the first cry, the first smile, the first step, the first words and etc., all the pain of the moments when one is pregnant or in labor are soon eroded away and not remembered. This is the most fundamental lesson l have learnt and continue to learn every day. Do not give up, we are, "In the potter's hands". "We are but pencils and instruments in the hands of a MIGHTY GOD". Just this thought gives me hope, hope to urge on and not to give up. To endure the nights as joy comes in the morning.

So l finally returned back home in Harare, Zimbabwe where my mother welcomed with wide open hands, tears of joy and a smile that was from ear to ear. When l left Zimbabwe l left a small boy but coming back l was a man. Having stayed away from family and on my own for the past three years. I am very grateful for my mother, l feel like the authors of the past who said, "Everything that l am or ever hope to be l owe it to my mother". My mother supported me in all decisions l made and she also though far from me kept an eye on me and never stopped to dish out unsparingly motherly wisdom. Parents allow your children to make decisions of their own and support them, one has to learn to stand on their own two feet. Children our parents thoughts, efforts, wordily admonitions are all for our benefit, lets respect and care for our parents.

I am going to skip a part and take us to the part where l was back at Solusi University, the year was 2015. All my friends had graduated two years back and therefore l was a stranger in familiar territory. I remember getting in the school bus and being asked whether l was a first year student, honestly l was not sure. I had left school and in the year 2010, five years back, so one can understand the changes. In five years a baby can start to walk, in my particular case, five years others had started and finished already and it was a new generation of students. I felt very old but thank GOD for my babyish look, not many of the students knew how old l was especially in relation to my years at school. One of my classmate was now actually working as an accountant for the school and the other was lecturing classes, luckily he did not lecture me. I can imagine the scenario where l have to sit in class and be taught by one who l actually assisted when we were both second years. Such is life, Charles Darwin wrote, "It is not the strongest of species that survive nor the most intelligent that survives. It is but one that is most adaptable to changes". Regardless of being an old student, l made new friends and relationships and had the best years of my life at school. Be adaptable, be humble, be kind, be friendly, be patient, be happy and please smile.

It is kindness in a person not beauty, looks or wealthy that wins our love and adoration. Sir James Matthew Barrie said, "Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves". One has to make use of the talents endowed to them for the greater benefit of the human race. One of the lesson l have acquired is that skill, talent, sportsmanship, intelligence can get you somewhere but only character will keep you there. Build good relations and make friends

everywhere you go but make good friends. For friends are like elevators, they either take you up or take you down, choose appropriately. All of us, all of life are connected, you carry yourself with everywhere you go. You carry your past into the present and the future will soon become your present and the present will be your past. Be your best at all times, stand guard at the door of your mind. If you give out the best you will in turn get the best. For whatsoever we sow thus we reap at the end of the day. Be consistent, dependable, stead, predictable and reliable always. David O. Mckay taught, “The greatest battles of life are fought out daily in the silent chambers of our hearts and minds” Sometimes when we consider what tremendous consequences come from little things, one is tempted to think there are no such little things.

WHAT KEEPS ME GOING?

Much has been done and accomplished but yet it's so little compared to what can be done. When l take audit of my life, the places l have been, the lessons l have learnt, the friends l have made, the books l have read, l realize that l have not even scratched the surface. I have not even reached half of my capacity and this is called Potential.

Potential is untapped power, unused energy or ability, it is all you can be but have not yet become and all you can do but are yet to do or must do. I was impressed with what l had done with my life since leaving Solusi up until l returned to Zimbabwe three years after but an elderly uncle of mine said to me, "Son you have not even started, the more you look back and smile the less you plan and move towards your future". The greatest enemy of our future is not fear but it is our past success. Your past success can give you a sense of achievement and you get comfortable. Those who glorify the past more than anticipate the future have no vision and they keep returning to the past, reliving the good old days.

Life, as l see it, is not a location but a journey. Even the man who seems settled is not settled; everything is influx and was meant to be. The earth is ever rotating around the sun, we may live at the same house number or street but it is never the same person. We are creatures of habit but habit results in us being left behind by the wheel of life. So l returned to Zimbabwe having spent three years away from home and nothing was the same. Life is ever changing and we ought to adopt with it. Friends who l left single, some were married, those in school had finished, some were working, some were starting their master's program and others where driving big cars. You see progress is not made by pulling off a stunt but each step has to be regulated, a man will not progress without putting thoughts of his next step regardless of however hardworking he or she is. Looking back at the three years away from home and school, l can summarize as one of the hardest times of my life and l worked even harder but honestly l had not moved or progressed a bit except to add years to my life. An unregulated hard work life is chaotic, dig in a garden all you can, regardless of how hard one digs nothing will grow unless one thinks of a garden, gets the seeds, digs, plants and waters the plant thereof till it bears fruits.

The Italian Wilfredo Paretto developed a concept called the Pareto rule after careful observation of worldwide phenomenon. In 1906 Wilfredo observed that 80% of income in Italy went to 20% of the populace, which led to the assumed conclusion that in any situation a higher majority of results are determined by a small minority of causes. One can achieve more with less, working hard is not enough, but thought and plans should be added into the mix. One has to go the extra mile and be willing to do those things others won't do today in order to have those things in the future that others won't have.

So what keeps you going, what pushes to urge on and not to give up hope or what should make you keep going? Among the gadgets that l brought was a television set, in the box was a manual and the manual said, DO NOT USE UNTIL YOU READ THE INSTRUCTIONS. By not reading the manual you do not make use of all the functions the manufacturer installed in the product. You fail to make use of the maximum potential set by the producer there of. What keeps me going regardless of the circumstances, situations around me and how behind time l sometimes feel is that l have read the

manual to my life. Like l highlighted before l am a Christian and my manual is the bible, l don't know what your manual is but you cannot be just a leave that is blown to and fro by the wind of life.

In the BIBLE, our life's manual, in the book of Jeremiah 18 verse 1-6. To paraphrase the prophet Jeremiah is instructed to go to the Potter's house and there GOD would communicate a certain message to him. The prophet went there and saw the potter at work on the potters wheels, sculpturing and moulding a vessel and as he was doing that, the BIBLE says it became marred or damaged and the potter remoulded and worked at it again into another vessel beautiful vessel. GOD is the potter and l am but clay in the Potters hands, that on its on keeps me going and gets me excited about my life. He formed us out of the dust of the earth and breathed the breadth of life in us. David puts it this way, he says I am fearfully and wonderfully made, marvellous are the works of thy hands O GOD.

You see whatever happens in my life and whatever l have gone through, my GOD the Potter is in control. GOD has absolute power, HE is Almighty, my dependence and your dependence is on GOD. HE is gracious and rules with purposes of love for the good of all HIS creatures. I went around different parts of Southern Africa having turned my back on GOD, trying this and that to make sense of my life but it was all to no avail. After all these years l learnt this simple principle, Men can no more attain a worthy end in life without GOD than the clay can become a shapely beautiful vessel without the Potter's hands at work. We are more than clay because GOD breathes his life into us and sustains our every moment, for without GOD's life in us we are but clay for the insects of the earth.

The other thing that keeps me going is that before the Potter begins his work, he has a vision of what the clay must become. A beautiful neatly sculptured or moulded vessel, GOD has a purpose in every life as the potter has with the clay. GOD is shaping me, using whatever heartbreaks, whatever pains, joys, tears, past disappointments, smiles, hungry moments and daily experiences into a from which he deems most fitting. At the end of the day, my BIBLE, the manual l have for living on this earth tells me that GOD, my Manufacturer, Developer and Potter is faithful to finish the good works HE started in me. It does not matter even if the world sees me as far behind or already late, GOD is not late. GOD waits on us, it does not matter what people of my age are doing, whether they be married or what cars they drive while l walk but GOD is yet to fulfil his purpose in my life.

The wheel of life moves and some parts of us like useless clay are cast off while other clay parts are added to us by the potter. We may not understand but this we know, out of the whirl, the rush and confusion of life, GOD is steadily at work, working out His purpose. He won't let go, on the potter's wheel, the clay is pressed on one side while the other parts are in the hands of the potter. The potter has his hands in some dirty broken up clay; he does not just see that the clay is marred or spoiled but he has a vision of what it ought to look like when it's done. GOD has balances and continues to balance in our lives our brokenness and with what we are potentially going to be when He is finished with us. We have unlimited potential, GOD says, no eye has seen or ear has heard nor any mind conceived what the LORD has prepared beforehand for us. So whatever brokenness you may have for now it can actually work out for your good, like l said it is not yet over. Its life hey!

A FEAR OF TIME RUNNING OUT

Life, as l see it, is not a location but a journey. Even the man who seems settled is not settled; everything is influx and was meant to be. The earth is ever rotating around the sun, we may live at the same house number or street but it is never the same person. We are creatures of habit but habit results in us being left behind by the wheel of life. You see time is constantly on the move, with every heartbeat of a human heart is less time one has on this planet. The question is how does one define time, time is a break in eternity, we do not have forever. Time is only real because we are finite. It is divided into seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months and years. If anything is sure in this world like the rising and setting of the sun, it is the constant ticking of the seconds. Humans know the month, the year and the day of the week. There is a clock on your hand or wall or the dashboard of your car. We have a schedule, a timetable and calendar of events yet all around time keeping is ignored. Birds of the sky are never late. Animals do not check their watch. Deer's do not fret or worry over passing birthdays. Man alone measures time, man alone chimes the hour. And because of this, man alone suffers a paralyzing fear that no other creature endures, A FEAR OF TIME RUNNING OUT.

We all have to found our inspiration from somewhere, the greatest book that has had lastly effects among all the books l read is the Bible. I cannot make reference to that which l have not read, or heard or experienced. In the BIBLE, Solomon the wisest man to have ever walked on this earth states that in Ecclesiastes chapter 3:

1There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens:

2 a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,

3 a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,

4 a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,

5 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,

6 a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away,

7 a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,

8 a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

There is surely a time for everything, a time to be born, a time to start growing teeth, a time to start crawling, a time to start walking, to start school, to finish a certain stage and graduate. A time to go for advanced levels, a time to start a course or a project, a time to get married and start a family, a time to retire grow old and a time to die. Whatever period of time you are currently at; please do your best, in this world our best will always be good enough. All of life is connected; one carries them with everywhere they go. You carry your past into your present, your present will soon be your past and your future will soon be your present. The present will be your past which will present itself into your future, do not be deceived for whatever ones sows today will surely bear the harvest tomorrow. The most fearful time during my school days was when we wrote our exams. All term

long or semester long one would feel that there is time enough only to be caught unprepared. It reminds me of a quote l read, which says: “but dost thou love life? Then squander not time, for that is the stuff life is made of. Lost time is never found again and what we call time enough always and soon proves little enough”.

I recently attended a funeral, it was a painful time of crying and mourning but the reality was it was actually a wakeup call. One tends to get comfortable to life and what is going on that we sometimes forget the most important things in life. So busy in the hustles and bustles of this world, chasing to catch up with time and maybe finish a class, or earn a living, buy a car, get married etc. I had last seen my uncle when l was just a small boy, l had last communicated with him when l was a teenage and here he lay in a coffin about to be laid to rest. I am sure that you can relate to this scenario, maybe it was your father, mother, brother, sister, friend, son or daughter, or wife or husband. How we all wish we could turn back the hands of times and relive and make more precious memories. Recant the harsh or rude words said and spend more time together as a family. How we wish we could have been them for them when we were needed the most or just be there to say goodbye before the final breathe. To ask for forgiveness or to inform them you forgave them and to promise them to be a better person in the future. To make the most of the time we have, to love life and live to the fullest. To make precious memories and moments that when we finally breath our last, our lives will have been well lived. To be the best we can be every day.

So as we write our names and lives in the sands of time, as we read history while we make our own, as we prepare for a future beyond our wildest dream and where we live our lives to the fullest. Let us remember the world diligence, diligence in all we do. Diligence is the mother of good luck and GOD gives all things to those who diligently engage in industry. Then plow deep, while sluggards sleep and you shall have corn to sell and more to keep. Work your best, laugh out loud, smile, spend time with family and friends while it is called today, for you know not whether you be existent tomorrow or how you may be hindered tomorrow. One today is worth more than two tomorrows, never procrastinate or leave for tomorrow that which can be done and accomplished today. If you were a servant, would you not be ashamed that a good master should find you idle? Are you then not your own master? Are you not GOD’S servant, will you not be ashamed to find yourself idle? When so much can be done for you or your family, or friends, or your country and GOD.

I personally wrote this book in ten days, the fear of time running out is a paralysis fear that gives us excuse not to do our best. It is so easy to say, it’s too late l cannot do it that to say how l will try as best as l can with the timeframe l have. To do we need to go into the history books to see how people whose time had run out yet in their old age they did exploits and left marks on the earth. It is not about how much time we have but it is about how we use the time we have. Let us therefore make us of our time wisely.

It is in our best interest to give out our best to all studies, our work, our friends, our relationships, our fellow humans, our country and our planet at large. BE THE BEST YOU CAN EVER BE, all that you can do, do it with all your best and all that you will do put in nothing but the best and you will earn the best in return.

SHIPS THAT NEVER SAIL

A ship is an earthly vessel that is created as a form of transport or a tool of war or a mode of exploring the world but at the end of the day it must leave port and sails the seas of life. Such is the human life, we are all meant to do something and achieve certain goals and objectives but what if we fail to sail. Someone once said that the richest place on earth are not the Diamond mines of South Africa or the enormous gold reserves or the oil reserves in the gulf region yet to be drilled. But the richest places on earth are the grave yards, for there you find books never written, inventions never invented, songs never written or sung, lives that should have changed the lives of the human race but never did, greatness that should have been accomplished but was never and all these are ships that failed to sail. There is no greater tragedy than a ship that fails to sail, history is being read but it is also being made. While other ships wreck in the storms of life or fail to set sail others are exploring the world, discovering and achieving greatness such as never been known to man. Ships that never set sail, as you think of this line of thought let us go to where I found it.

In the Bible, 1st Kings Chapter 22 verse 48; "Now Jehoshaphat built a fleet of trading ships to go to Ophir for gold, BUT the SHIPS NEVER SET SAIL-they were destroyed at port".

There is no greater tragedy than a ship that fails to sail. There is no greater tragedy than a person who was destined for greatness yet did not accomplish anything for differing reasons, a ship that never set sail. It is one thing to have been wrecked at sea while going on about your dreams and purposes than to have been wrecked while never having left the port.

Take one sip of alcohol, try this drug or this thing and you become hooked and addicted only to destroy your destiny, your future and your relationships and be named among ships that failed to sail. Yes he was handsome, she was beautiful, it was meant to be, we were so much in love, only to be left with a baby and all your dreams shattered or worse off with a deadly disease incurable. What a tragedy or shame, a ship that never set sail. He or she excelled in all their classes, got all the awards and merits and was the best in all sporting disciplines or arts yet they failed to make it in this world. So much potential and thus a ship that never set sail, oh what a tragedy. Your parents' or sponsors paid all the fees but at the end of the day, the results where beyond dismal, a ship that never set sail.

You had it all, a great job, a good salary, a nice car and a happy family. The future was bright yet somewhere along the lines, you lost it. A tragedy the consequences of wrong choices or the storms of life yet another ship that never set sail. There is no greater tragedy than the death of a child or young man or lady. So much potential, maybe they were going to be the next president or invent a cure to end human suffering. To die before one graduates and or to die in your youth, thus a ship that failed to sail. Many have crushed along the rift of life and died before accomplishing their dreams, yet you are alive and now read this memoir. Let your life not be a tragedy, live your life to the fullest, be relentless and go for your dreams. Success is certain, victory is guaranteed.

Let us explore the story of King Jehoshaphat a little bit more and see what lessons we can learn. Jehoshaphat became king at age 35 years old; the bible says he was a young king. He got on the throne soon after the throne had been at war and the country's treasury was dilapidated of any riches. The finances of the country where in rags and pieces and the reason was because the

previous king had taken everything to war. We relate to this, my country is in a financial crisis and turmoil, they are no moneys at the bank, they are no jobs and there is confusion to what the future will be. The reason is because of our predecessors and the decisions they made. Gross mismanagement and corrupt activities by our leaders have brought about economic depression. All of life is connected; one carries them with everywhere they go. You carry your past into your present, your present will soon be your past and your future will soon be your present. The present will be your past which will present itself into your future, do not be deceived for whatever ones sows today will surely bear the harvest tomorrow. You see all of us are connected and we owe it to future generations to be faithful.

King Jehoshaphat decided to build ships to go to Ophir and get gold for his country. We live in a world that needs radical thinking, thinking outside the box, being innovative and not just blaming everything on what others did. It is possible to change our lives, to break away from poverty, what lies behind us or before us are just but little matters compared to what lies within us. The major key to your success is you, you can become above average but developing an above average you. The king came up with a plan, to change the lives of his people but the ships were wrecked before leaving port. But why, why do ships wreck in port? Why do we fail to achieve all that we ought and can achieve?

External reasons why ships wreck and fail to sail: ships wreck because of the work of pirates, in the bible John 10 verse 10, states that the thief comes to kill steal and destroy. There is evil at work to destroy you and keep you from fulfilling the purpose for which you were created you. The other reason is sabotage, other people are not interested to see you succeed and will try by all means that you fail. Internal reasons for ships wrecking and failing to set sail are matters of the heart or within us. Fear keeps many away from accomplishing all that they can. The other reason for failure is the old fore of success, LAZINESS and procrastination. Henry Clay put it this way, “The time will come when winter will ask what you were doing all summer long”, make most of the time you have. If the attitude is wrong, we will fail to handle the storms of life. Conforming to the standards of this world or set for us, will surely make us fail to reach our goals and dreams. Some ships wrecks because of the wrong crew, birds of the same feathers flock together. If you run around with losers, you will soon be a loser yourself. One can still do everything correctly and still yet their ship will wreck but is there hope for us.

Yes there is always hope, they say opportunity dances with those already in the dance floor. Be daring like the Christopher Columbus who decided to against the norms and sail the unknown seas only to discover treasures unknown. In trying and in starting whatever you have in mind you do not know what treasures you will meet. If you meet failure then you have won one battle and that is now you know which way does not work and thus you make adjustments on your ship and soon you will meet your shore. For no matter how vast the oceans are, there is an island or continent somewhere, keep sailing. You are the captain of your life and help is always help out there, a light house to guide you home. You just have to look and follow it once you have found it.

WHAT WENT WRONG?

A ship is an earthly vessel that is created as a form of transport or a tool of war or a mode of exploring the world but at the end of the day it must leave port and sails the seas of life. Such is the human life, we are all meant to do something and achieve certain goals and objectives but what if we fail to sail. From the last memoir we said that ships or human beings fail to achieve the purposes for which they exist because of external reasons such as pirates, sabotage and internal reasons such as fear, laziness, negligence and irresponsibility. At this moment in time, allow me to take a case study of a man who was meant to achieve greatness yet failed. You see my life and your life are but any open book to those around us and generations to come, so please make sure it is worth reading and adds value.

The story of Samson is one that we were told as children growing up. My mother would tell me of Samson, the strongest man who ever lived. He killed a lion with his bare hands, he fought and got victory over 1000 enemies and yet died without eyes because he failed to listen to his parents, he never lived to his fullest capacity or achieve the greatness for which GOD had created him. A ship that had failed to sailed, what a tragedy but before we start judging and pronouncing the strongest man a fool. Let us look at his life, he started so well and yet lost it along the way. Many a times we start something so well and yet at the end we come out as failures.

Growing up when choosing team mates for e.g. a game of soccer, we would always choose the strongest and most talented and avoid others we saw as weak but sometimes we would lose. The reason being because of maybe a weak goal keeper, the point is that no matter how strong you are, you will always be pulled back and limited by your weakness. Many any times in my walks at school and away from it, at work and home, with the multitude of strengths and talents GOD gave me, I still failed simply because of a single weakness. The weakest link in a chain will soon see it break; a small leak and hole in a big ship will soon see the ship sink. A little neglect may breed great mischief, for want of a nail, the floor collapsed, for want for a floor the building crashed and human lives were lost. If only care had been put to hammer the nail in place, Samson o great Samson, how the great and might has fallen.

In the BIBLE, the book of Judges Chapter 16 verses 15-22, is the narrative of the fall of a great man and warrior. Samson's birth was pronounced by an angel and he came as a saviour to his people. GOD gave Samson unprecedented strength, a great military leader. He won many great battles and conquests yet he failed to overcome his weakness and thus his downfall. The Philistines, the enemies failed in all counts, home and away to win against Samson. No man was strong enough and yet they identified a weakness. Samson's weakness was his love for women. They used Delilah and promised her 1100 pieces of silver if only she would find out Samson's source of strength and power. So Delilah asked and three times she was deceived yet at the end of the day she won, DELILAH said to him, "You don't love me, for if you loved me, you would say out the truth". Samson to prove his love for her told the truth and thus had the source of his strength the hair cut off. He was taken as a slave; his eyes where gorged out and became the laughing stock for his enemies. What a tragedy? What made such a strong man and the great warrior and saviour of GOD's nation so weak? There are many reasons attributable but allow me to give out just two reasons that have pulled me back many a time from being all I can be and that I got from the careful analysis of the tragic story of Samson.

Samson was fixated on his feelings and not focused on the facts. Delilah according to the account asked Samson three times and three times Samson lied about the source of his power. Delilah the so called girlfriend would do as Samson would have said, in the hope that he becomes powerless and would call the enemies to destroy him. In makes no sense, how Samson yet remained with her after being betrayed time and time again. Samson lied because he did not trust her and yet when the word love was thrown into the equation, Samson vomited out the truth. The greatest damage in our lives usually are not what lies people say about us but the greatest damages comes from lies we tell ourselves and choose to believe ignoring all the facts. Most of the decisions l made which resulted in turmoil for me where made in haste and because of feelings and emotions. Always think things through. One will drown in a sea of feelings and emotions if there are no facts to hang on to or pull us out. Feelings are not always true, they change and they can be misleading and sometimes are not aligned to the true facts of the matter.

His desire for Delilah was deeper than his devotion for GOD, his dreams, mission and purpose. Idolatry is anything or anyone who takes more priority, attention, resources, devotion and your time from GOD. A dream is the seed of possibility planted in the soul of a human being, which calls him to pursue a unique path until the realization of that purpose. The moment you settle for less than you deserve, you will get even less than you settled for. Samson settled for a lady who betrayed her time after time and because of being driven by emotions and feelings he stayed there and thus his downfall. At the end of the day, in this world order is best maintained in accordance to the simple rule, “That everyone must be his own policemen”.

In conclusion, be honest with yourself, search your deepest parts if they be any weakness and threats, work on these and turn them into stepping stones. Decisions to be made should be carefully thought through and aligned to facts, principles, ask yourself is it taking me closer to my goals and dreams or pushing me further away. I have learnt that it is never good to make decisions when emotions are high because they have a tendency of clouding our judgement

I think a personal audit of one’s life is of paramount importance, you really have to be honest with yourself. If you want to go far then you need to know if you have resources enough e.g. fuel to complete your journey. Then why do we expect to go far in life when we are unsure of what we have and if it is sufficient enough to carry us through. Find out what is working and keep working and work on what is not working. A table cannot stand on one leg or a building cannot stand on one pillar. So work on yourself mentally, physically, emotionally, intellectually and spiritually so you are well equipped for this journey called life.

Financial audit at 30 years

As l write this, l find it unbelievable that l have just turned 30 years. What a life it has been for me, various ups and downs. Taking a glimpse into the past, it has been a good couple of years. I managed to achieve some of the goals l had set for me but my biggest failure was on my financial goals. I failed to meet the target for the amount l had set me to be worth at the end of the year, my bank balance is still not where l would it to be and my savings and investments target where dismally not achieved.

l failed me, why? An un-examined life is not worth living at all and it is important for one to take audit of their lives and as l plan for the next few years of my life l know the areas l need to work on. It is surely going to be great years for me and hopefully for you but it is important to enter the other season of our life with the correct mind set. The computer gurus say Garbage In and Garbage Out. You get what you out what you put in; a man reaps what he sows!!!!

Bob Proctor categorizes human beings into three groups' names: Those in -* Deficit-more is going out than coming in, * those on break-even– who use everything that comes in and it gets out and *those in surplus– who have more coming in than what they spend. Currently l am at break- even point, which means there is not much to save or invest as previously planned and thus failure on my part. Every income l received has suddenly evaporated from my pocket. The problem of almost always having an empty pocket is not simply solved by getting more money, for with an increment in receivable income comes a simultaneous increase in expenditures. The problem is a mind-set error, where my mind has been programmed to think of spending than saving or investing. When l get money, l immediately think of what l would like to buy instead of thinking how l can save, or one thinks of paying bills and yet nothing is left for savings or investment. So my goal starting now is to save just $30 per month for the rest of my life. One will and must train and program the mind to do this, it has to become a lifelong habit. To be rich, one can do that with an average income but one needs to just have a lower than average spending.

Habits are little chunks of auto-pilot behaviour that get burned into the neurology of our brains. Once you develop a habit, it is truly hard to erase the program but those set of instructions need to be replaced and removed from our brain cells. When your brain starts running one of the many habit scripts, a good part of your conscious judgement is turned off. The habit takes over and controls you until you get to the end of the script where you are filled with remorse and regret. Many a times when l receive money l would have planned prior to save and invest a little but l just end up spending everything and at the end of the day l question myself, "Really where did all the money go".

Anwar Sadat said, "He who cannot change the very fabric of his thoughts will never be able to change reality and therefore will fail to make any progress whatsoever. Real change comes from the inside out, it is possible to move from being poor and broke to being rich, from also having a deficit bank balance or being break- even point where all your money is spend in mitigating expenses as they fall due to being in surplus, having more than you ever imagined.

A Chinese bamboo tree, takes five years to grow. You have to water it, tend it and fertilize it every day but it starts to show or sprout from the ground only in the fifth year. But in the fifth year, it grows five feet tall in five weeks. Keep to your studies, to your career, to your talent, keep watering and working on your dream. One should be able to sacrifice what we are for what we will become. To be able at any moment to sacrifice what we are for what we must become. To be able to sacrifice what we can consume today in order to acquire what others who have consumed today won't have tomorrow.

Nothing in this world can stop a made up mind, where there is a will, there is away. What will drive you push you to keep going when you want to give up. Where do you see yourself in the few days, months and years to come? WHAT IS YOUR VISION, goal and plan? It need not be specific, the how will come to you. It is true that, "if one takes all the money, wealthy in the universe and shares it equally among the human race, sooner than you think it will be back in the same hands" As a man think, so is he. As he begins to think, so he becomes. If a 1000 dollar mind-set is given a million, he will easily spend it or squander it to get to his usual 1000 dollars. But if a million dollar mind-set gets 1000 dollars, he will save and invest and quickly transform it to a million.

The text for the day is simple, one must save and invest but it is hard and it will take great financial discipline and moral power to develop a habit of saving and putting a little on the side. It can just be putting $30 per month and at the end of the year without interest it will be $360 and after ten years it will be $3600 which is a lot. Especially if we talk of interest if you invest, your savings should be your seed for the harvest you want in the future. Stopping eating your seed and then complaining about the harvest you get in the future. You are guaranteed you will enjoy the rewards. I wish you all the best as you plan and enter a new day, new week, new month, new year and new era. I hope you achieve all that you can and your dreams become a reality, remember nothing can stop a made up mind. Be relentless, fight for your goals and what you believe in. Do what you must in order to have what you will have, it is really that simple, no need to complicate things for yourself. Life Huh!?

ENCOUNTER WITH NBA STAR – SULLIVAN PHILLIPS

Some moments are worth mentioning simply because they either make us or break us. This really touched my heart for in this encounter l saw myself in the future, just continue reading on and you will see what l mean.

Tuesday 24 September 2019, started like a day like all others but truly every day is a gift and if you take time to open up you really enjoy the present. For yesterday is in the grave, tomorrow is in the womb but today is the living opportunity presented to you.

I was invited to a basketball game somewhere in the ghetto where l met a remarkable human being who really made a big difference in my small world. It is in opening up to opportunities availed to us that we truly discover ourselves. Sometimes we can be truly stuck in our shells like caterpillars but when we see other butterflies at flight then we have the courage and inspired to also spread our wings leave the comfort zone, fly and spread beauty, love and our gifts to the world.

I met renowned NBA basketball star Mr Sullivan Phillips, he is an author, motivational speaker and truly a gifted messenger of the LORD. He has allowed his gifts on the basketball court to take him, places and come to our little courts in the ghetto and remind us that the dream is still possible but when all is said and done the greatest gift is giving back. By helping other people dream again, fight again for theirs dreams or achieve their dreams then truly our greatness shines. The world is in dire need of people like that who have taken it upon themselves to help.

Mr Sullivan Phillips speech was just two minutes, this is what he said. They used to tell me l was never good enough. Growing up l played basketball in a hall even smaller than this one, people used to tell me, you never going to go big or make it. One must never doubt themselves, do not despise the days of small beginnings. You must always realize that there is opportunity for you somewhere, all you need to do is take opportunities that come your way. I am a living example, l grew up in a small island called Bermuda, it is a small island about 22 miles and guess what l took a dream, left the Island and took the dream to the world. My challenge to you today is little ones, keep dreaming, big ones cultivate the dream and to the older ones (the parents, guardians, coaches etc.) love the little ones and help them make their dream a reality and they will come back and thank you for it. Wherever you find your self do well, once in a lifetime opportunities don't come twice, enjoy embrace, and network and most importantly your future is like a basketball, it is in your hands and do what you must to score the winning basket of your life.

This is Sir Brian saying to the Sullivan Phillips of this world, keep doing what you do, speaking the truth as it is and touching our hearts and life's' in amazing ways. We appreciate it and to us on the verge of unleashing our greatest gifts, do not let go of the dream. If Mr Sullivan Phillips can do it then so can l, embarrass, cultivate your talents and gifts and bring your beauty to the world and share GOD's love to a world in need of love. Your difference makes a big difference, be blessed and inspired and let your light shine for there is no such thing as a small light, even a lighted candle makes a difference in a world almost covered with darkness. As we let our light shine we unconsciously give others power to do the same and as we set our selves free others will find their own to way to break the shackles that have tired them down.

Just to give you an idea of my dream and vision

I am a transformational speaker, writer, entrepreneur and a Specialist Medical Recruiter for a British Medical Staffing Company called Ambition 24 Group. Ambition 24 is a Recruitment company for medical personnel catering for the United Kingdom and South Africa. My daily job, from 07:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday entails being a bridge to the medically qualified personnel who need work and to the many clients who need Medical personnel to do the work in the fight for healthcare for the Human race. I love what l do because l do what l love.

But think of this for a second, how can a holder of a Batchelor's degree in Business Administration having majored in Finance doing in the medical recruitment company. I never saw myself in this position but seeing myself here, l absolutely love it. Let me quickly share why: We live in times where we want to feel important and that we are making an impact or a difference. Believe me every time you log in and do your work, you make a difference. You making an impact in this world.

I inversely provide for so many families, l make sure people have food, shelter, clothes etc. for themselves, their families and the community and society at large. I do this by recruiting staff to join us as agency staff. When l make those calls, send emails I am partnering with our candidates in providing for their families. When l recruit l do it to touch and change lives. l am a bookings consultant, l canvass for clients to get my candidates booked and thus changes lives. l not only change the lives of my candidates but the very clients, a baby is born from the very hands of the Doctor l recruited which means l played a part. My care workers, nurses, doctor or locum or allied staff save lives daily and that is because l do the best l can daily. Whatever role you play its really how you choose to view it.

We do not always get the dreams jobs and careers we want and sometimes we do not even know what we really want. Such is life where we go through education (nothing wrong with education), primary, high school and tertiary education all to look for jobs. Some are soon employed after graduation and begin the journey to rise to the top, some after achieving good grades do not find work and some working find their life's miserable and live frustrated life's and we settle because the world has trained us and set in our minds to always be in survival mode. Some move from one job to another, looking for better salaries or benefits but in it all there is no satisfaction. Just work, do your best, provide for your family, make ends meet till you meet your end.

Prior to that role l worked as Junior Manager, Finance Clerk, Truck Manager/Driver, Secretary, Teacher, Retail cashier, Fuel attendant, Assistant Manager for an Italian restaurant, a waiter, barman and pizza delivery boy, till packer and ran my own car wash home based business. A holder of a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration majored in Finance and working towards a Professional Qualification.

Therefore, l realized and began to question my very existence and discovered for so long l was under an identity crisis and did not know who l was. Without knowing who you are, it is hard to know one's purpose and because we do not know who we are we live frustrated lives where we are just blown to and fro by the winds of the world. I got myself intensely engrossed in my work but was never satisfied, l immersed myself in education and was not really satisfied, l immersed myself therefore in alcoholism and other addictions and these gave me temporary satisfaction but it was not enough.

Before GOD intervened, l was moving towards a destructive path of self-destruction and death, deep down lost in finding my Identity. Once l discovered my identity thus the purpose GOD created me and that GOD set me up to be a leader in a generation in need of GOD ordained Leadership.

I am highly passionate about a generation that needs to find their true identity and thus discover their purposes and still believe that our dreams are possible.

My dream and goal now is to help people of all ages and generations, cultivate their talents and gifts and bring their beauty to the world and share GOD's love to a world in need of love. I believe our differences makes a big difference, we all are unique and special in our own ways. My hope is to inspire many others to let their light shine for there is no such thing as a small light, even a lighted candle makes a difference in a world almost covered with darkness.

The next chapter of the book will outline my testimony of how at my worst and yet my story changed. The basic idea is as you read this book your life maybe at the worst moment but believe me there is hope for you. I found my hope and deliverance in God and l really hope you find yours. Like l made it clearly from the onset l am a Christian a proud one for that matter, for my life is a testimony of how God intervenes right on time.

How my life turned around

Early this year end of February 2019, my young sister begged me, for her to come stay with me in Cape Town till she had to graduate. I tried to decline so many time because l knew her coming meant l had to be responsible. I had to start taking care of her, no more late night, clubbing girlfriends and all. I accepted and she quickly came l had to look for a place and we got a very good place, the landlord not only gave us the room but she gave us furniture and property to use. It didn't really click my mind back them but l was happy what it meant is not much of my money was going to be diverted from my alcohol or party budget. My sister soon got a job at as a waiter at a restaurant close by, l was happy for new and knew she would gain valuable skills in regards to human relations that would help her for the rest of her life.

She told me she met a friend from her high school and invited her to Command of Faith as she was looking for a church to attend. After her first attendance she came back home excited, l was nursing my hangover from last night. She said she had found her church, she said they do a lot prayers and declarations and the church was like Christ embassy. I asked about the Bishop because l was sceptical of churches these days, when she said He is from Nigeria in my mind l quickly thought take money united. I had stayed with Nigerians in the past and knew that they had ways and means to just make as much as they can but not care how it affected anyone else. I told her to be careful, she said okay and that was it. I didn't tell her to stop because l saw a change in her, l gave her offering every time she would go for church, Sometimes l would give her more and say it was my tithe though it was far less but l didn't trust the church. She invited me so many times but l always said next time, when papa Derick she invited me and was so relentless and l said okay. I went but the night before l was out clubbing and thus slept half of the service. I liked the inside of the church, thought it was quite sophisticated and enjoyed the choir.

She tried to invite me for battle of midnight and l told her, she can go as much as she wants l will pick her up once finished and take her home. When she went for the all-night l would be also in my all night drinking myself and partying and before the all-night church ended l would always leave, get her from church and we would go home. I would sleep till late and would wake up to some nice gospel music and she always cooked the best meal to take care of my hangover. She never said anything and here and then she would say big brother, please lets pray and we would pray about everything. By then we had only one key and l would come enter sit at the back and the ushers knew me and they would call my sister for the key and l would soon be out of the church on my way home without a care in the world, looking forward to unwinding with a cold beer at home.

Sometime in end of June there was another all night prayer at church, my sister diligently asked me to come but my night was already set and planned. The club we were going to, already knew we were coming with my friends. After work my sister went straight to the battle of midnight and l went straight for the ladies night. We had a time there but for some reason l kept the urge of wanting to check on my sister, l would dance drink and send a whatsapp to my sister and she would say we being blessed at church and l told her all good. Pray for big bro and she sent a smiley face. As it was last call for drinks l knew that also the all-night at church would be ending soon. The club closed just before the all-night finished and thus would go get my sister and we would go home.

For some unknown reasons and for the first time in my life, l got involved in a fight and that was when the club was closing. It was Nigerians versus Zimbabweans, we fought really hard. Honestly l can't remember who won but l am sure no one really won because l don't even know why the fight started at all. I lost my phone in the fight and had a damaged eye and felt ashamed to go to my sister and thus went to a friend's place. I slept but kept asking myself, what if l had died what would my sister do. What sought of position would l leave her in, what type of brother would she remember me more. I soon brushed it off and said it's just the alcohol, the plan was how we are going to finish the fight because they had to be a victor. When l met my other friend, he told me our drinking buddy had been stabbed and he was alive in hospital and had been robbed of everything he had. The same route we walked home, was where the unfortunate event occurred. It could have easily been me and maybe l would not have lived to share the story.

The next day l went home as l knew my sister would be worried sick and l had no cell phone for her to get through to me. When she saw me she cried but said she was happy l was okay. She told my mother that l had gotten robbed and was okay. I told her the story about the fight and all she said l can never imagine you in a fight, she laughed and cooked a meal to take care of big brothers hangover. She told me that the Bishop had said everyone at church should pray for one person in their family that really needed GOD and she said she had prayed for me. I thought to myself, was my life really bad to that point. I took inventory and really saw it was, l could not sleep without alcohol and sometimes if not having nightmares, l would just wake up and stare at the ceiling wondering where l am going or what l am even doing then l would pour a glass of wine and would soon be flat sleeping again.

I was so ashamed with my life and had failed to break all my addictions, the next Sunday l was the first up. I went to the gym to work out my hangover came back home and got ready for church. My sister was shocked and happy, for the first time l listened to the Bishop and l could tell there was aunthecity in what he had to say. I pride myself in reading and studying but here was a man who was not talking theology alone or bible school lessons. This was a genuine man of GOD, who was living the gospel truth, l fell in love with Command of Faith Ministries Worldwide and gave my life to GOD without even going to the front from then onwards all my addictions stopped.

I felt so much peace that l had never had, it was as if a burden heavy was lifted off from my shoulders. l was the happiest person in the world, my sister soon noticed the change. I soon started pushing her to be early for church and if l saw she was too busy l would tell her, too late, you will meet me at church and be on my way. I look forward to all parts of the service but my greatest delight is in the full course meal ushered by our Father Bishop Joshua N Simeon. I have learnt to pray and have learnt to trust GOD and GOD is faithful.

l honestly hope you find that which your heart most desires. A lot came be said, debated, argued and all that but when your heart is hit by the deepest conviction then do not deny your heart. Give yourself a chance, open up for you never know. You might just experience the peace that you so much desire. Life Huh!? My Bishop always says that, "when you discover you will recover", l have accomplished so much within a short space of time simply because l discovered my identity in God and where l belong. He goes on to say, "Everyman is an architect of his fortune or misfortune" and l have taken personal responsibility of my fortune. Bishop Joshua also said among my favourite quotes, "When you are thankful you will be fruitfully" and truly l am grateful.

ON FINDING LOVE

The title of the book came from the love of my life as we discussed in this very first chapter, I am sure we will write about how we met and all that in the next book in the near future. But after all I have said in this book, I cannot live without penning down something in regards to love. Love is such an overused word in the world and also greatly misunderstood. You look at the amount of music in the world, it is mostly declaration for love or someone seeking love, or someone in love or someone having lost love or given up on love. The amount of literature about love, novels, movies, series, documentaries, television shows only to mention a few, is so vastly wide spread that it leads to question the very definition of love.

Love is the greatest need for us as human beings. For what is it to you to gain the whole world and not have one to share it and what is it to you to be fallen with sorrow, trials and mishaps of life and not have love around you to help you, comfort you and urge you on? Those who have given up on life and taken their very life, if they wrote a suicide note, will summary that they felt so alone. It was not that they failed in life but it was that they could not find love or felt rejected and dejected and no one could ever love them. Yet when we read such, we feel for them and conclude that if only they had been loved or realized the love around them, the narrative would be different.

Love makes the difference, for those who have succeeded in the trade they have chosen be it career, business, family matters or spiritual matters. They simply love what they do or are passionate about what they do and thus do it to the very best of their ability. Simply being in love makes everything worthwhile, when you love what you do, you will immerse yourself in doing it regardless of reward. You simply do what you do because you love, you simply choose that someone simply because you love them. Loving something or someone makes life worthwhile. Therefore Sir Brian you have alluded to the importance of love and yet have not defined love for us. My task is not in defining love for you but this is a narrative on finding love. How can I find that mysterious thing called love? The greatest desire of humanity is to be loved and to give out love. Love is not found in receiving but it is found in giving.

The bible says that for GOD so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that who so ever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. When in love we detach ourselves from the picture and it becomes less about us but more about the love our life, our families our communities or our fellow human beings or the earth and universe at large. The best way to find love is to forget about yourself and to reach out in love, to help out and serve. We do not attract what we want in life but we attract what we are. Jesus says that love your neighbour as you love yourself, thus for me to love externally I must learn to love internally.

We live in a world now where if you love me, like my picture like my post, follow me on my social media etc. Maybe when the outside world believes I am happy then I can convince myself I am happy. If I am accepted and loved by the world then I can accept and love myself as I am. This is a sure recipe for disaster, because love and acceptance is an inherent thing, even if everyone loves you and accepts you but you if do not love yourself and accept you. You will always be out of place even in the crowds of your loved ones. You are beautiful, handsome, you are good enough not

because someone says so but simply because you are and you tell yourself. All the validation you need is in your mind and heart.

We all are like flowers longing to show forth our beauty, we want to sing our song to the world and show forth the love that makes our very hearts beat. Yet like flowers beset with rain and insects and thus the flower closes its beauty. We search for someone who can love us, who can be trusted with the revelation of ourselves without rejecting us. We look forward to being loved, only to experience the very opposite, rejection and heartbreak and thus we close our hearts. We fill that void with fear, guilty, anger, resentment and a sense of inadequacy and feeling all alone when in essence we are never alone. We convince ourselves saying, “There is no one l can to talk to, no one l can open up for no one understands me”

Yet there is one who cares, they is someone who will never leave you or forsake you. There is one who loved to the very point of laying down His life for you. You mean the world to Him. He loves you and accepts you as you are. He forgives you and teaches you to forgive and to once again open your heart. He says l stand at the door of your heart and knock, won’t you open and let him and that is greatest narrative of the world, child you are loved and because you are loved, feel free to give out love. For love makes life worthwhile.

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO?

I have had experiences where l felt my life was on constant replay, like it's a broken record playing again and again. What l currently do is what l have always done and the results l am getting is what l have also received. I am sure it's not just me but may be you currently reading this memoir. It is a miserable state of affairs in one's life. The frustrating thing about it was the more l tried, the more l worked hard the more l got back exactly where l had started off. It is seemed like failure was my constant reality, mediocrity, empty pockets or bank accounts yet deep down l know l could move to the other side. Change is not just a possibility but a must, something in my life had to give.

Life is a constant battle between who you are now to who you yearn or want to be. At the beginning of the year you set resolutions, resolutions to change yet after a few months or even days you are back where you started off. The question to ask is why? Why do we do what we do? Socrates alluded that an unexamined life is not worth living at all. To be better and do better we have to study ourselves. A bad manufactured car is recalled back to the assembly line by the producer, it is broken apart and the problem is discovered and then the vehicle is made anew with improvements. Thus life's are saved and thus for you to save yourself, you need to find out why you do what you do? What you do now, today or any day is what has brought about the results you currently get and if you don't change you will get the same results time after time.

For so long l have felt like a failure, the more l tried the more l seemed to fail. I moved from place to place because the grass is always greener on the side yet the seed within me was spoiled and thus could not grow or take advantage of the beautiful green grass. Real change is not an external matter but it is when we search within and change within that everything else changes. What happens, happens to everyone but how we react determines how we suffer or thrive in what has happened. The truest fact of life is when you change the way you look at things, the things you look at begin to change.

My life began to change when l started to change from within my heart, l had been so negative for a very long time and thus kept attracting negative things in my life. One of my greatest enemy was worry and fear, simply because l was so afraid l kept thinking about the very things l was afraid of. Job the bible patriarch, after having lost his wealthy, his family, his health and at the brink of death concluded and said, "the thing l feared the most l have brought upon myself". As a man thinketh in his or her heart so shall he or she be. Thus we do what we do because deep done that is all we think of. If you think of failing you will fail, if you think and see yourself winning you will win.

Why do we do what we do? We pull down others because deep down we know we can do better but are afraid to do better because we are afraid of failing. So when we see those trying to do better we try and pull them down yet when they do make it we envy them and try and emulate them. Behind every glory there is story, there have been battles fought. If the battles within us have been won then the battles outside can do us no harm. At one point in my life l was an alcoholic, but if you ask me why or how l started l cannot recall. The very fact of the matter is, it was the cool thing within a certain circle of my friends in high school and thus in a bid to be accepted l started drinking. So thus we do what we do because we seek acceptance and love. The more stories of drunkard escapades l shared with my friends the more l made them laugh the more they seemed to like me.

We do what we do so that we are accepted by friends, family or our societies yet at what cost. In a bid to conform to the standards set for us we lose our individuality.

Have you ever asked yourself why, why you believe what you believe? Why you do what you do? Our belief system influences how we act but some of our beliefs have been passed down through generations and generations that we also do things as they have been done and pass it on. What if it is wrong, what if the systems that worked back then can no longer be applied to our current generation. We have to be able at any day to sacrifice who we are for who we ought to be. There has been a lot of literature and studies done in regards to why we do what we do but my favourite narrative is from the Bible. One of the verse, Romans 12:2 says, "And be not conformed to the standards of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove that which is good and acceptable and perfect, will of GOD".

If you believe in GOD then you have to believe that GOD made you to do better and be better and if not then changes are a must. The bible narrative speaks of faith, faith being the substance of things hoped for and thus you are not bothered by what is because what is will give way to something better and you can live with hope and expectation and thus you call forth those things that be not as if they are. On the other hand if you are an evolutionist, you believe that man evolved from primitive beginnings then you know that with constant developments, improvement is inevitable. Then you as well as an individual must also evolve and change for the better. For that which is not growing is simply dying, real life transformation begins by the renewal of your mind.

We do what we do because we are creatures of habit but what is a habit. A habit is a decision you made at some point and then you stopped making the decision yet you continue to action that decision. What it means, is you made a decision to drink and now when you do drink you don't need to make a decision it's a normal part of you. You made a decision to wake up and look at your phone and thus every day you do not need to make the decision daily but you just wake up and reach for your phone. How habits are formed, habits are formed as follows: You sow a thought, you reap an action, you sow an action and then it becomes a habit. A habit will make you or break you, it makes your character and your character determines how your life will be lived and the results you will get.

As l come to the conclusion of this chapter of Memoirs of Sir Brian Robert Koga, l want to challenge you to change for the better by simply working on your mind. My life changed when l made a decision, we form habits because we make decisions to do certain things. As a child l was slave to impulses, l wanted to touch everything and taste everything. As l grew my actions began to be ruled by appetite, passion, greed, love, fear, my environment but the biggest controller is always my habits. Therefore to switch from what l am getting now to what l want to get, from failure to success then l must destroy bad habits and replace them with good habits. Then be not afraid to examine your life and take the necessary decisions. Some decisions are not easy but they are necessary, sometimes it takes sacrificing the very beliefs you have held for so long. Sometimes it takes losing the very people you call friends, family and all. It takes letting go off the comfort zone, leaving the good for the better, leaving the better for the more excellent. There is no limit to what you can be or do, so before you do what you do, ask yourself why do l do this and what value is it contributing to my life. Is it moving me to my goals or its taking me back to where l have always been at, will it bring about the results l want or will it bring about the same results l have always received.

WHEN EVERYTHING SEEMS TO MELT AWAY

We are obviously coming from a crisis where everything got to a point of standing still. It is really hard to believe that 2020 really happened. Life Huh!?

There are moments in life when certain events threaten our very existence, the ground we stood on as we looked forward to the future disappears from under us. The very earth, quakes, rumbles and tumbles with all sorts of challenges, crisis and pandemics. Every crisis brings about it, solutions and problems. It destroy a lot of our certainties and creates uncertainty. As human beings we become afraid and look back to some reassuring history, religion or science or anything that can reassure us of a future still. The very cars and planes that moved us from place to place have all been grounded. And we are locked up to ourselves, the very social clubs that kept us preoccupied are closed down. Places where we ran off in a bid to run away from ourselves, from our worries, our fears and our problems are now closed down and we have no choice but to deal with them. We can no longer pretend to be busy being busy while diverting our attention away from issues that need our immediate attention.

At one point in my life, all seemed to melt away. I know that what l had to go through has made me who l am today. At that period of time, l was overwhelmed and thought it the end but here l stand writing another chapter of my memoirs. In other words all l am saying is, when everything seems to melt away from under you, it is not yet over. Like ice melting away it does not mean the water has been lost but it simply means the water has changed itself to vapour because that is the best state it should be at the moment. Be not afraid of change, for change comes with growth, change brings about transformation, change brings about enlightenment to opportunities we may have wasted in the past but which we should no longer waste when the dust settles. It is so true that we have no need to fear the future unless we forget how we have fared in the past and how we have won in the past.

At a period of my life, l stood on the ground of my degree. I was sure that having that degree was opening doors for me in regards to career, promotion and yet this was to no avail. Standing on the ground of my degree was no solid ground to stand on. Thus miserable and dejected l settled for any job l could get, because in life you need money to pay bills. I started working, l was offered the mere minimum because l had no experience in the field yet l worked very hard. Within a short period of time l was one of the best and yet no increment in salary came even after requesting time and time again. No promotion came even after going for interviews for better paying position. I was basically living month to month, there was more month left after the end of the month, the salary was well spent. Looking back now, it was not that the money was not enough but it was me not budgeting well. We usually blame everything and everyone else in regards to our state yet we do not take responsibility.

After a while l got frustrated with the job and became a serious alcoholic, after having a near death experience in one of my drunken escapades. I totally changed my life, l joined a church and became engrossed in church activity and we had a twenty one day prayer and fasting. Afterwards l was so sure that GOD was telling me to resign from my work. My friends and family thought l had lost it and did their very best to discourage me from resigning. The work was killing me inside and yet l believed GOD always meant for us to be happy and at peace. So anything that threatened my peace, l had to let go. I have to say, resigning was the hardest thing l ever had to do. The very faith that GOD would provide for me was at a great battle with the fear that what if it does not work out. What if l fail to meet my rentals and l am thrown out of my house or l am unable to make money for food and all.

The first month was easy because l had money for rent but when we approached the second month, l knew l was in trouble. What l had thought, the home based projects were not bringing income enough to sustain me. The very ground l stood on, a salary at the end of the month and income from my business all had vanished into thin air. Everything seemed to have melted away, GOD seemed to have deserted me, regrets, fears, worries and despair became my constant companions and at the same time, pride held me down because l was not willing to ask for help. I think we all need help sometime and we should be man enough or woman enough or human enough to ask. To cut a long story things worked out in amazing ways, maybe one day l will share the full story. So when everything melted away it was simply a time for me to turn the next page. So if everything seems to be melting away in your life right now, remember it is not the final chapter. So do not dare give up.

Faith is not denying that things sometimes do not work out but it is choosing to look at what could be and not what now is. When l was in the crisis all l saw was despair and hopelessness and thus l attracted the very situation that maximized my state so that l got the confirmation. If you always say, l always misplace my keys believe me for a very long time you will forever be looking for your keys. If you keep your attention on what has always been, what has always been will keep manifesting. Life is not a competition of sorts, you cannot make manifest in life what you want when your attention is on what they want for you or what they expect for you. Where your attention is, you will direct your energy and your actions will bring about the results equivalent. We are directors of our own movies and writers of our own life story.

The song writer, Jackson Brown sang, “Just do the steps you have been shown by everyone you have ever known until the dance becomes your own. We do the very steps and dances we been shown by everyone else and the dance has become our very own yet it brings about the very same results we no longer want. We are a sum total or average of the people we hang around. By beholding we become changed, look at the circle around you, if you hang around losers you will end up a loser. In the song he says, into a dancer you have grown from the seed someone else planted. Go on and plant some seeds of your own between the time you arrive and the time you have to go home because in the end there is one dance of us all and that dance you will do alone. We need to break the chains and shift from manifesting what we don’t want and to what we want. If you keep your attention on what you don’t want, what you don’t want will always keep coming. Addiction is simply

never getting enough of what you don't want. A fool is one who thinks the same thoughts and does the same thing expecting a different result. The currency of attracting what we want is our thoughts.

Choose faith over fear, choose not to concentrate on what is not working but to be grateful for what is working and to know that it will work out at the end. When everything else seems to be melting away then be ready to embrace the next chapter of your life. Bruce Lee said, "Empty your mind, be formless, shapeless — like water. Now you put water in a cup, it becomes the cup, you put water into a bottle it becomes the bottle; you put it in a teapot it becomes the teapot. Now water can flow or it can crash. Be water, my friend. Changes come with lessons, when the student is ready the master or teacher appears, you must be ready to learn and be better. Like a butterfly breaking out of an ugly caterpillar, be not afraid. We will rise out of the crisis we now stand in.

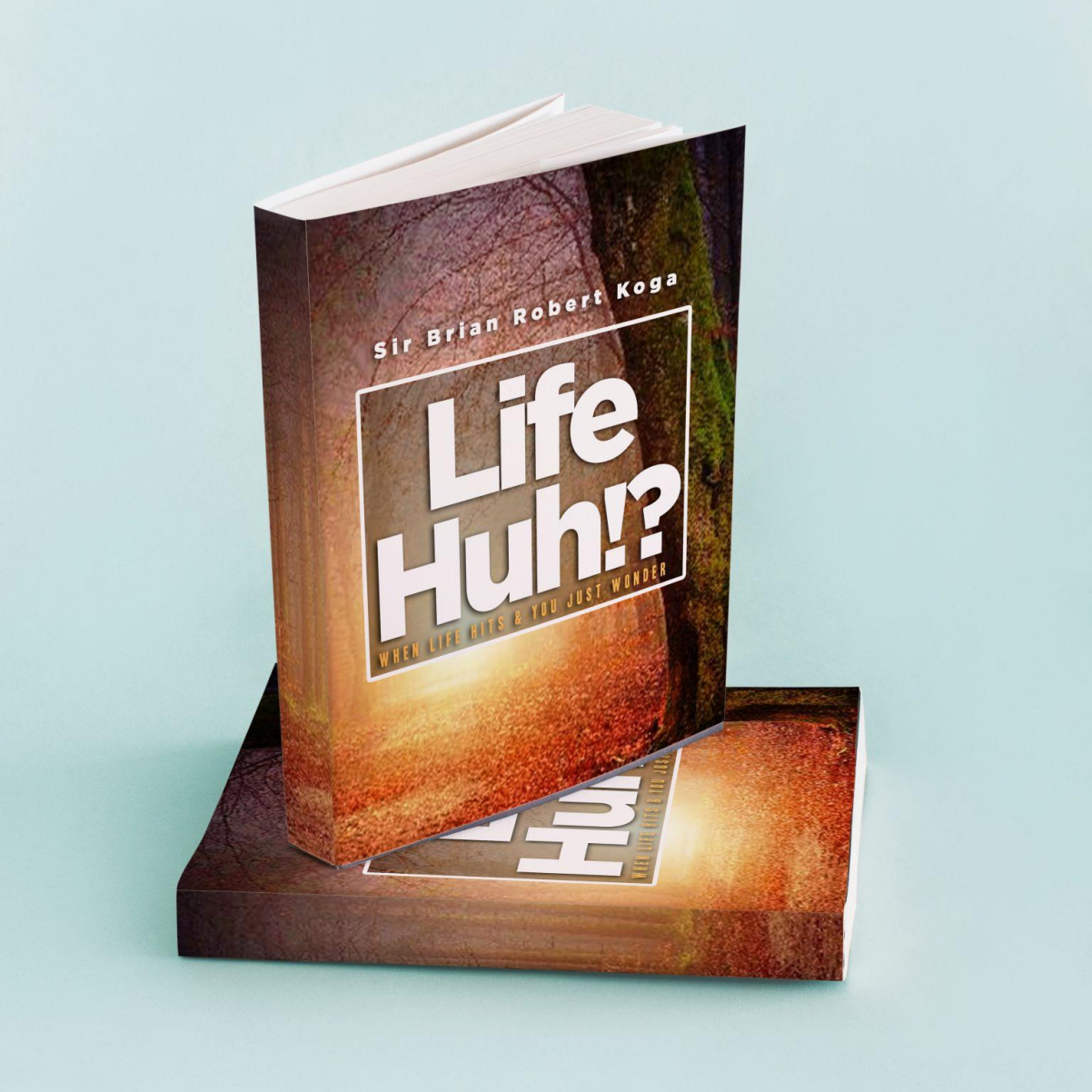
With GOD all things are possible, the question to ask is, is there anything left out in "all things?" In quantum physics it states, particles themselves are not responsible for their own creation. In the bible Saint Paul said, "That which is seen has come from that which doth not yet appear". Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. It is calling those things that be not as if they were and thus they become.

Whether you believe in GOD, science, philosophy or anything of that matter, know that when all seems to melt away, when unsure of how it will work out. Say to yourself, IT WILL WORK OUT, we † ' • ï – ƒ Ž ™ ƒ › • but we ought always to know, it will work out in time

In Conclusion

This is not your conventional book, this is my goal and my dream becoming a reality and I am grateful that you have come this far. I am grateful to everyone who played a role in making this book and this dream come true. Forgive me if I crossed a line, like I said this is my unedited version of a personal account of my life. I am sure among everything I wrote in this book something resonated with you. I hope in reading Life HuH!? you were able to find the answers you were looking for. I really wish you success in all you do and that you find the peace, joy, happiness and love that you so need. I hope that your life becomes all it can be.

I have so much more to share but I would rather we do it on a more personally level. Let's connect:

Website: www.lifehuh.net

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